

From: ahattrup@cfl.rr.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

As a software developer, I am concerned that the Proposed Final Judgment in the DOJ v Microsoft case has many technical loopholes that, based upon previous actions, will be exploited by Microsoft to retain their monopoly. Many of the End User License Agreements that must be accepted to produce software compatible with the Microsoft windows operating system regulate and limit what one can do with the program. There are many API's that Microsoft does not document publicly, but which are used internally to increase the performance of their own products. Publication of all, not just middleware, API's should be a requirement. The timetable for publication of the API's is probably sufficient, but the requirement that any software pass an undefined compatibility test is leaving the door wide open for abuse. The most grievous omission from the proposed settlement is allowing their proprietary file formats and communications protocols to be kept undocumented. This is what allows Microsoft to maintain its monopoly in the desktop market. It will modify/produce a protocol or format and write applications that work with the protocol/format. This new protocol and application base will be forced onto End Users using their monopoly. Microsoft will then protect said protocols/formats with EULAs, creating a major barrier to entry. These are just some of the issues that plague the Proposed Settlement. I urge you to close some of these loopholes and restore competition to the operating system market.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Lorin Hattrup